

Obituaries

Robert Evan Kendell

Former chief medical officer for Scotland and an expert on the classification of mental disorders

Bob Kendell was a seminal figure in the classification of mental disorders, in a way that deepened understanding. He earned international acclaim as an outstanding writer, a master of logical thinking, and a fine researcher. He decided on psychiatry early in his career and his doctoral thesis argued that there were several types of depressive illness, identifiable with systematically gathered clinical information. His 1975 book *The Role of Diagnosis in Psychiatry* remains a classic. He made important contributions to mental illnesses of pregnancy, addiction, schizophrenia, hysteria, lithium therapy, and electroconvulsive therapy, showing that the latter was undervalued, and unfairly depicted in the film *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

He took a double first in natural sciences at Cambridge before doing his clinical training in London. After house jobs at Queen Square and the Brompton, he did his specialist training at the Maudsley, moving to an academic career at the Institute of Psychiatry. During this time he joined a major international study of psychiatric diagnosis. This applied structured interview techniques to areas where they had been absent. Diagnoses were generated according to specified and logical rules. The World Health Organization international pilot study of schizophrenia (1967–8) and many other studies have been based on the principles established in that project.

In 1970, following a year as visiting professor of psychiatry in Vermont, he moved to Edinburgh as reader in psychiatry, becoming professor four years later. From 1986 to 1990 he was dean of medicine at the university, supervising the medical school's expansion. After a further year as professor he was



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appointed chief medical officer for Scotland, a post he held for five years.

Although he was good at playing his cards close to his chest, he was in many ways a poor politician, being unable to grovel to woolly minded thinkers (such as the Prince of Wales or the Tory government) or to make compromises with people that he knew were wrong. As chief medical officer he had the difficult task of coping with the crisis over BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) and CJD (Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease), and the impossible one of persuading the Scots that they had less to fear from the fallout from Chernobyl than they had from saturated fat, alcohol, and cigarettes. He also failed to persuade the Scots that the risks of oral contraceptives were less than those of unwanted pregnan-

cies. He urged MPs to support a bill that set out to tackle rude and incompetent doctors.

Bob Kendell was austere, dour, kind, and hard working. He was also a modest man, underplaying his achievements and kindnesses: he encouraged young talent. A younger colleague of his recounts how Kendell babysat for his sons, taking them swimming while he gave a paper.

Kendell's intellectual integrity was total: his honesty was such that he once gave a 45 minute paper about schizophrenia and infections, the entire purpose of which was to admit that a previous paper he had written was wrong. With Andrew Zealley he co-edited the third to fifth editions (1983–93) of a major textbook, the *Companion to Psychiatric Studies*.

After leaving the Scottish Office Home and Health Department he spent three years as president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (1996–9). He served on many bodies including the Medical Research Council, World Health Organization, and grant giving bodies. He was awarded numerous prizes and medals, and was an able committee member and chairman.

Bob Kendell was lean and fit, swimming daily and hill walking often, to the end of his life. In his three years of retirement he produced a dozen papers to add to the 200-odd of his earlier career. He collapsed with an undiagnosed brain tumour and died later that day. He leaves a wife, Ann; and four children.

Robert Evan Kendell, psychiatrist (b Yorkshire 1935; q Peterhouse, Cambridge/King's College Hospital, London, 1959; CBE, FRCP, FRCPsych), d 19 December 2002.

Thomas Henry Eustace

Former general practitioner and coroner Drayton Valley, Alberta, Canada (b Chelmsford, Essex, 1917; q Guy's Hospital, London, 1944), died on 23 December 2002 after a stroke.

Tom served with the Royal Navy during the second world war. He later joined a practice in a small village in Suffolk, England, and in 1952 became a founding member of the

Royal College of General Practitioners. In 1966 he moved to a small town in Alberta, Canada. During his 30 years of practice there he served as chief of staff for the hospital and coroner for the region, and had a special interest in obstetrics and gynaecology. He loved outdoor activities and was an avid fisherman. He leaves a wife, Ann; three sons; and 10 grandchildren. [JONATHAN EUSTACE]

Peter Robert Fleming

Former consultant physician, cardiologist, and teacher Westminster Hospital (b 1924; q Middlesex Hospital, London, 1948; MD, FRCP, DHMSA), died from fibrosing alveolitis on 16 December 2002.

Peter joined the Royal Air Force in 1949 and was a medical specialist at RAF hospitals in the Middle East. On his release he became a medical registrar at St Stephen's Hospital



and then Westminster Hospital. In 1955 he was appointed a research fellow in the cardiac department at Guy's Hospital. He then became a senior registrar at Westminster Hospital, specialising in cardiology. In 1961 he was appointed senior lecturer in medicine and consultant physician in the newly formed professorial unit. He was the author of *A Short History of Cardiology* and editor of *British Cardiology in the 20th Century*. He leaves a wife, Elizabeth, and three children. [R I S BAYLISS]

Charles Mackintosh Flood

Former consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist St James's Hospital, London (b 1919; q Westminster 1945; MD, FRCOG), died from colon cancer on 31 August 2001.

He spent his national service on HMS *Victorious* returning Wrens from the Far East. After completing his training in London, he became a senior registrar at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital for Women. His Catholic faith coloured all his attitudes including his opposition to abortion. In retirement he was regularly the medical escort on pilgrimages to Lourdes. Predeceased by his eldest daughter, he leaves a wife, Antonia; two daughters; and two grandchildren. [ROSEMARIE FLOOD]

Henry Pearson McNamara



Former general practitioner Coventry (b Spersmoor 1910; q Durham 1933; FRCGP), d 11 December 2002.

Mac practised in Bell Green, Coventry, from before the second world war until his retirement in 1974. He remained in Coventry throughout the war and was instrumental in regenerating local community life in the immediate postwar years. He pursued his special interest in cardiology through his role as honorary medical registrar to the Coventry

and Warwick Hospital. He became the trusted local doctor of the boat people who worked the Oxford to Birmingham canal where it ran through Coventry. After retirement to Harrogate he became an accomplished wood carver, a talent cut short by failing eyesight. Predeceased by his wife Muriel, he leaves four sons and eight grandchildren. [IAN McNAMARA, HUGH McNAMARA]

James Edward Mitchell ("Sam")



Consultant surgeon Swansea 1966-89 (b Aberystwyth 1926; q Cardiff 1948; FRCS), died from acute gallstone pancreatitis on 23 November 2002.

After he was appointed as consultant general surgeon to Swansea General Hospital in 1966, Sam set about modernising the department and improving the surgical training, which led to the establishment of a formal senior registrar rotation between Swansea and Cardiff. He undertook a wide range of surgical procedures, but his major interest was in colorectal surgery and he established the colorectal unit in Swansea, which is today among the best in the United Kingdom. Sam's hobbies included fishing, sailing, golf, and skiing. In 1989 he retired to Hampshire to pursue his interest in fishing and to be nearer his growing family. He leaves a wife, Philippa; five children; and 11 grandchildren. [DAVID MITCHELL, PATRICIA STEANE]

Ronald ("Ronnie") Shaw

Former consultant anaesthetist Warwick and Leamington Spa (b Oldham, Lancashire, 1912; q Cambridge/St Mary's Hospital, London, 1937; MA, DA), d 30 March 2002.

During the second world war he was posted to a maxillofacial unit in Ranikhet, India, and a mobile neurosurgical unit at Dimapur, treating casualties from Kohima and the Burmese theatre of operations. He was noted for his successful improvisations in the field in Burma, where the facilities were entirely dependent on air drops and mule transport. After a period as a general practitioner in Leamington Spa he gained his FFARCS in 1954 and joined the Warwick and Warneford Hospital staff as a consultant anaesthetist until his retirement. A keen water polo player from his time at St Mary's, where Alexander Fleming was the polo secretary, he captained a team in Leamington Spa. He leaves a wife, Margaret; three children; and three grand-

children. [TIM AND JON SHAW, GILLIAN COTTER-SHAW]

Vernon Hope Smith

Consultant ophthalmologist Birmingham and West Midlands Eye Hospital 1961-88 (b 1925; q Cambridge 1950; FRCS, FRCS Ed, FRCOphth), d 26 December 2002.

He leaves a wife, Jean; three daughters; and two granddaughters. [S K McVERNON]

Mary ("May") Donaldson Stewart

Former senior medical officer (family planning) Teesside (b Glasgow 1922; q Glasgow 1945), died from a heart attack on 1 January 2003.

After qualifying, May combined family duties with general practice. She then moved to the community arena, where she was instrumental in founding the family planning services for Teesside. She was a GP trainer in family planning and was also active in marriage guidance. In retirement May was an enthusiastic and prolific artist, photographer, and sender of emails. Her regular batches of homemade marmalade and jam were legendary. May devoted her last 18 months to nursing her husband, Ian, through his final illness, predeceasing him by three days. She leaves three children. [GEOFFREY V SECCOMBE]

Sisir Kumar Tewari



Associate specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology Forth Park Hospital, Kirkcaldy, Fife (b India 1949; q Calcutta 1974; MD), died from a heart attack on 28 December 2002.

After initial postgraduate training in India, Sisir came to the United Kingdom in 1980. He worked mainly in Kirkcaldy but went to Hungary for specialist training. He became an associate specialist in 1998. His interests included colposcopy and amniocentesis and latterly he spearheaded the organisation of the fertility control service for Fife. Sisir actively promoted Bengali culture and was secretary of the local Bengali cultural association. His interests varied from Indian classical music to football and cricket. He leaves a wife, Rupasree, and two daughters. [TAHIR A MAHMOOD, D RENNIE URQUHART]



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